Amendments to the Title

Please replace the title of this application, oath or declaration excepted, with the following amended title

~~LICENSE MANAGEMENT METHOD AND LICENSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM~~

METHOD FOR RELEASING SOFTWARE FUNCTION LIMITATION

Amendments to the Specification

In the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 13, with the following amended paragraph.

In general, software is distributed to a user on a recording medium such as a CD-ROM (Compact Disc – Read Only Memory) or over the Internet for downloading. Software distributed this way can be easily copied. In fact, one copy of software is sometimes copied for use illegally on a plurality of computers.

Also, please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 19, with the following amended paragraph.

The software management system 1 in this embodiment comprises a product management server 2, a route server 3, an authentication server 4, and a user terminal 5 that are interconnected via a network 6 such as a private LAN (Local Area Network), a leased line, and the Internet 7. Although the servers 2-4 are connected via the network 6 such as a LAN in FIG.1, they may also be connected via the Internet 7. It is desirable that the product management server 2 be installed in a factory where a product (software) is packed and shipped and that the route server 3 be installed in a place where security is ensured.

Also, please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 11, with the following amended paragraph.

The license private key 21, license public key 22, route private key 31, route public key 32, activation private key 41, and activation public key 42 are designed, for example, according to the RSA (Rivest Shamir Adleman) system.